

Editorial Department.

THE NEW YORK NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE INSANE ASYLUMS.

IT really does seem as though there was a good deal of truth in the dictum, "That time at last sets all things right." We are forcibly reminded of the fact from the perusal of portions of the report of the Senate Committee on Insane Asylum Abuses.

It will be remembered that a little over two years ago the Neurological Society presented a memorial to the Legislature of this State making certain charges against the management of the lunatic asylums, and asking that an investigation might be ordered.

The memorial, which was extensively signed, was referred, through the machinations of the asylum ring—an organization as unscrupulous as any which ever disgraced this city under the worst days of "bossism,"—to the Senate Committee on Public Health. Two of the members of the committee, Messrs. Goebel and Goodwin, instituted a sham investigation, and then made a report which was almost a complete tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. An answer was made by the Neurological Society, in which the unfair and untruthful report of Messrs. Goebel and Goodwin was properly handled, and its misstatements and partisanship thoroughly exposed. This report was widely circulated throughout the State and country generally. It not only dealt with the tools employed by the "ring" to malign the members of the Neurological Society, but it reiterated the charges which had

been previously made. In consequence of that answer the Hon. W. C. Woodin, of the Senate, deemed it his duty to demand that a real investigation should be made, and a committee consisting of himself and Messrs. Pitts and Fowler have, for nearly two years, been engaged in conducting a minute and exhaustive inquiry into the whole system of insane-asylum management as it exists in this State. A few weeks ago they submitted their report; of which, as yet, only a synopsis has been published, but we have enough to know that the charges made have been abundantly sustained, and that the New York Neurological Society is completely vindicated from the malicious and mendacious assaults of Messrs. Goebel and Goodwin and the "asylum ring" in general. Of course the "ring" is making strenuous exertions to prevent the publication of the report, but in this attempt they will probably not succeed. When it makes its appearance we shall review it in full in our pages. In the meantime, however, it is a source of gratification to us, as it doubtless is to the Neurological Society, and especially its Committee on Asylum Abuses, that a special committee of the Senate, working in the interest of the public, should have had the fairness to enter upon its labors in the true spirit of decency and truth—a feature which was entirely lacking in its predecessor, composed of those two shining political lights—Messrs. Goebel, of this city, and Goodwin, of Utica,—both of whom are, as we are happy to say, still in that seclusion to which their constituents consigned them.

WE gladly give prominence to several pertinent neurological questions addressed to the medical profession, in circular form, by Dr. H. H. Kane, of this city. Dr. Kane asks:

"Have you ever seen any cases of insanity, temporary or permanent, or any deviation from the normal mental or moral state that could be traced directly to the use of a single large dose, or the continued use of opium, or any of its preparations or alkaloids?"

The same question is asked concerning chloral hydrate, bromide of potassium, and other drugs.